

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/653,633

Examiner

Arrienne M. Lezak

Applicant(s)

KRAWIEC ET AL.

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 26 September 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8, 10-25 and 27-38.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

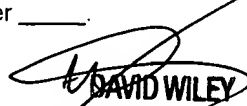
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 9 November 2005.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John M. Harrington, Attorney for Applicant on Monday, November 9th, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1:

(Please delete from line 3) —“transaction terminal”—

(Please delete from lines 19-22) —“, while eliminating audio via external speaker at the transaction terminal until one of completion and timing out of a session of the visually impaired user, and providing a screen layout with navigation selections exclusively by touchscreen for the visually impaired user; and”—

(Please insert at line 1) —A computer implemented method—

(Please insert at line 2) —for a self-service visually impaired person (VIP) Global customer activated transaction (CAT) terminal with an audio amplifier board having software control of the amplifier board, said method, comprising—

(Please insert at line 14) — providing a screen layout with navigation selections exclusively by touchscreen for the visually impaired user;—

Art Unit: 2143

(Please insert at line 19) –impaired user--;

(bullet point indentation) wherein headphone insertion triggers the VIP application from the initial "Hello" screen, and touching the display screen in a predefined manner disables the VIP application;

(bullet point indentation) and wherein the VIP application controls audio output, such that audio output is not routed to the external speakers at the transaction terminal until the completion and timing out of a VIP session, regardless of continued headphone insertion; and

Claim 8:

(Please delete from line 5) controlling –“an”– audio amplifier

(Please insert at line 5) –controlling the audio amplifier–

Claim 18:

(Please delete from line 3) –“transaction terminal”–

(Please delete from lines 17-20) –, while eliminating audio via external speaker at the transaction terminal until one of completion and timing out of a session of the visually impaired user, and providing a screen layout with navigation selections exclusively by touchscreen for the visually impaired user; and”–

(Please insert at line 2) –for a self-service visually impaired person (VIP) Global customer activated transaction (CAT) terminal with an audio amplifier board having software control of the amplifier board, said method, comprising–

(Please insert at line 12) – providing a screen layout with navigation selections exclusively by touchscreen for the visually impaired user;—

(Please insert at line 17) –impaired user--;

(bullet point indentation) wherein headphone insertion triggers the VIP application from the initial “Hello” screen, and touching the display screen in a predefined manner disables the VIP application;

(bullet point indentation) and wherein the VIP application controls audio output, such that audio output is not routed to the external speakers at the transaction terminal until the completion and timing out of a VIP session, regardless of continued headphone insertion; and

Claim 25:

(Please delete from line 6) controlling –“an”– audio amplifier

(Please insert at line 6) –controlling the audio amplifier--

Claim 35:

(Please delete from line 3) –“transaction terminal”–

(Please delete from lines 16-19) –“, while eliminating audio via external speaker at the transaction terminal until one of completion and timing out of a session of the visually impaired user, and providing a screen layout with navigation selections exclusively by touchscreen for the visually impaired user; and”–

(Please insert at line 1) –A computer implemented method—

Art Unit: 2143

(Please insert at line 2) –for a self-service visually impaired person (VIP) Global customer activated transaction (CAT) terminal with an audio amplifier board having software control of the amplifier board, said method, comprising—

(Please insert at line 11) – providing a screen layout with navigation selections exclusively by touchscreen for the visually impaired user;—

(Please insert at line 16) –impaired user--;

(bullet point indentation) wherein headphone insertion triggers the VIP application from the initial “Hello” screen, and touching the display screen in a predefined manner disables the VIP application;

(bullet point indentation) and wherein the VIP application controls audio output, such that audio output is not routed to the external speakers at the transaction terminal until the completion and timing out of a VIP session, regardless of continued headphone insertion; and

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on 15 November 2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term prior patent No. US 6,527,171 B1 to Brooks has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

After extensive searching and analysis of the best prior art in light of Applicant's claimed invention, Examiner finds that the prior art references alone or in combination fail to disclose a transaction terminal for the visually impaired user wherein headphone insertion triggers a visually impaired person (VIP) application, and wherein sound is disabled to the external speakers until the completion and timing out of the VIP session, regardless of continued headphone insertion. Examiner is persuaded by Applicant's argument that sound disablement until the completion and timing out of the VIP session, regardless of headphone insertion, is an improvement over the prior art wherein removal of headphones redirected the audio back to the external speakers allowing anyone within hearing distance to listen to the remainder of the transaction.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arrienne M. Lezak whose telephone number is (571)-272-3916. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-4:30.


Art Unit: 2143

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571)-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Arrienne M. Lezak
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Art Unit 2143

AML


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